

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on **Thursday, April 26, 2012.**

Present: Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.
Treasurer – Sandra Owens; Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber;
Board Members - Louise Michaels, Milton Huston & James Richards
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.;

Absent: Chief Stuart Pearson (excused); Board Member – George Kain (excused)
Association Representative – Eric Palmieri, President (excused)

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:04 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the March 15th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the March 15th meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Milt made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

III. – Approval of Bills:

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Sandy asked if the bill approval process was delaying any payments. She did not want to get late payment fees or interest charges unnecessarily. Kim replied no, that she had asked Ray and Sandy to come in for a separate batch earlier in the month and the check register presented tonight showed all of the payments made for the month.

Louise asked what “Breaking News Network” was. Kim explained that it was an electronic update service for the Chiefs cell phone. The bill covers three months of service.

Jim made a motion to approve the bills. Louise seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. - Treasurer’s Report:

Beginning balance March 1st \$401,546.65 and ending balance March 31st 398,706.66.

The largest expenditure was the \$30,000 transfer to the truck fund. The CD will mature in 2015 with an interest rate of .74%.

Louise made a motion to accept the March Treasurer's report. Milt seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

V. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$106,984.22.

Taxes collected in the month of March were \$14,459.56.

Third party billing was healthy in the month of March, \$10,554.33.

Past due tax notices were sent out on April 1st.

Kim has been experiencing a lot of problems with the printer in her office. It has been out of service three times within the last month, 15 working days. We still have two years left of the five year lease agreement which we entered into on 6/5/09. The Chief and Kim both requested a new machine, but Innovex insisted it was just regular wear and tear and have fixed it. Another company has solicited us and will be submitting an offer to buy out the lease and supply another machine. Milt asked what type of machine ours is. Kim said it is a Sharp.

Currently we are working on our three year review of the driving records of all crew members and per/diem employees. Glocester PD runs the reports for all Glocester residents free of charge. Non-residents must go on-line and obtain the reports themselves for a fee of \$19.50, which we are reimbursing.

USDA recently did a compliancy review. They asked for a few new items which we supplied to them. They asked that we now keep track of ethnicity information, whether it is supplied by applicants or noted visually.

Kim then supplied an update to the lawsuit involving Bridget Williams who has run our tax sale in the past. Attorney Glen Andreoni of RI Tax Titles, has approached me about doing our tax sale this year, as have Jocelyn Williams, Bridget's daughter, and Pamela Fontaine. She has told them that she will bring their proposals as well as a third party to the board to make a decision. Sandy asked that they three parties should have their backgrounds checked thoroughly. Jim asked what exactly these companies do for us. Kim explained that they are versed in tax sale law and proceedings and run the tax sale for us. This includes title searches, certified mailings, hand delivery of notices and they actually run the tax sale.

Jim made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. - Chief's Report:

The Chief was attending the Congressional Fire Services Institute in Washington DC, so Kim presented the report on his behalf.

Kim stated that she spoke to the Chief at 5:00 pm this afternoon he said that he had talked at length to both Senator Whitehouse, Congressman Langevin and Congressman Ciciline. They talked about our interest in a broadband project and our work with the RIEDC and he said he saw quite a spark of interest. They spoke about the AFG, mentioning key words and items that will be helpful in the application process. Ciciline and Langevin gave him office contact information to get letters of support for our AFG applications. They also discussed the AFG workshops

coming up soon in Richmond. The Chief and Kim intend on attending together to get the most out of it.

Several thank you notes have been received: Friends of Harmony, Stephanie and George Kain and Mary Carr, Deputy Chief Segee's mother.

The painting contractor started last Friday and will be completed next week. A few changes were made like changing the doors to black. Everyone agreed this looked great.

The new guardrail has been installed behind the station. The Chief and Deputy Chief Segee did the work themselves. Reflectors were added to it as the board had requested and perennial plantings will be added. Ray asked that the Chief be told it came out very nice.

The radio repairman came in this week and finished the radio upgrade on Engine 22. It is now narrow banding compliant. The only radio left to be done is the base radio in the radio room, which must be done before January 1, 2013. There are at least 4 more portable radios that will need to be bought as well though. Milt asked if it was just a frequency issue. Kim did not know any details about it though. She did say that they had opted not to upgrade the radio on Engine 23 however because of its state, but they would just use hand held radios if it was needed.

The Chief attended a full team training exercise of his RI Incident Management Team at the RI Urban Search and Rescue complex in Scituate.

On April 9th there was a meeting of the Burrillville and Glocester Fire Chief's with our local elected officials to discuss the proposed legislation relating to the maximum tax levy for fire districts (2012 H-7397) The next meeting of this group will be Monday, April 30th.

On April 10th Chief Pearson was sworn in by Governor Chaffee for his next term as Commissioner on the RI Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review. The board extended congratulation to the Chief.

There was an officers meeting held on April 11th. Officers annual reports were reviewed, a new drill schedule was set, the Duty Night Program was discussed and the review of SOP & SOG's was continued. The Duty Night Program has received much positive feedback and the officers are working on generating guidelines. It is a voluntary program run by the Deputy Chief and should be implemented June 1st.

Servicemen have been in to troubleshoot and repair the a/c in the building.

A call was received from Mrs. Sargent, a 5th grade teacher at Fogarty School, to have someone come in and read a story to her class. Captain Plante attended.

Parma Doors has been in and replaced the overhead door motor for Rescue 2's bay. The cost for this repair was \$850.

This past Tuesday night the Chief attended a Forest Fire Advisory Committee meeting at the Oakland-Mapleville Fire Department. Items on the agenda were: the State of the State, Fire

Season and Volunteer Firefighter Association (VFA) grants. We are in the midst of preparing a VFA grant for wild land firefighting gear.

Louise made a motion to accept the Chief's report. Jim seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

No report due to Eric's absence.

VIII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair
Milt stated that it is a work in progress. Ray stated they would like to review it next month, before it is presented at the annual meeting. As discussed it would be a working document, starting with the "bones" in place and adding more information later.
- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs
- c. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs
Louise stated once George is feeling better, they will start working on this.

IX. - Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony.
- b. Pathway to Net Zero – Heat & Electricity

X. - New Business: Addressed throughout report.

XI. - Public Input: No audience.

XII. – Executive Session:


Next month there will be an executive session called to discuss the renewal of the Chief's three year contract, as well as employee salaries for the new fiscal year budget.

XIII. – Adjournment:

Louise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Milt seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The April meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:25 pm.**

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board
is scheduled for **Thursday, 6:30 pm, May 17, 2012** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary